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Transforming Lives Through Value Education

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Abstract:

Today in the mechanical world of globalization, everyone is striving hard for the material success. Unfortunately people are forgetting about the values which are very necessary for the personal, social and spiritual development of the individuals as well as society at large. Undoubtedly, the miracle of science has lessened human struggle but at the same time, it polluted people's mind which all the time think for personal gains. The feelings of love, compassion, sympathy etc. are diminishing from the society day by day. In this degradation of humanity where violence takes a bad toll on people's lives, the need for value education becomes a priority for every nation. Since our ancient times the holy books like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bible as well as Kuran highlight the need for values in order to live a good, qualitative and peaceful life. The paper investigates into the significance of value education and how it can transform society.

Key words: Value education, humanity, society, transformation, self discovery etc.

Introduction:

Powney Cullen writes:

"Value education is the process by which people give values to others" (07)

Value education is an activity that can take place in *any* organization during which people are assisted by others. Even it can take place at home, as well as in schools,

colleges, universities, jails and voluntary youth organizations. There are two main approaches to values education, some see it as inculcating or transmitting a set of values which often come from societal or religious rules or cultural ethics while others see it as a type of Socratic dialogue where people are gradually brought to their own realization of what is good behavior for themselves and their community.

Being human, we all need respect. Everyone wants to be loved. It is very necessary for the survival of the community of human being that they shall understand each others' needs and behave accordingly. If not there will be chaos, violence and disorder in the society. The world wars are the result of moral degradation of the values. Therefore to avoid such wars which are threat to mankind itself, value education should be taught. Man is a product of the society in which he lives. Therefore value education is necessary at the primary level where the personality of the individual is ready to develop. The teaching of values in one's childhood may create positive changes in the individuals. The change in the individual through the value education is not a particular type of change related to specific subject knowledge but the value education can transform one's character from within.

As S.Srinivasan rightly asserts: "Values include all important religious beliefs, moral attitudes, philosophies of life and political ideologies. Values help in sustaining the society and its culture. Any significant change in society brings about corresponding change in the culture. Similarly in individual life, values have occupied an important place. If individuals confide their feelings and emotions, transformation will take place and peace and tranquility will be achieved." (80). As Farrer observes: " The New religious movement called the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University incorporates twelve values: unity, peace, happiness, hope, humility, simplicity, trust, freedom, cooperation, honesty, courage, love."(35).

Types of Value Education:

1. Explicit Value Education:

It is associated with different pedagogies or methods that teachers use in order to create learning experiences for students.

2. Implicit value education:

It deals with the aspects of the educational experience resulting in value influence learning, which can be related to the concept of hidden curriculum. This discussion on implicit and explicit raises the philosophical problem of whether or not an unintentional action can be called education.

3. Human Values:

Preparation of text-books and resource materials about environmental education can play an important role in building positive attitudes about environment. The basic human value 'man in nature' rather than 'nature for man' needs to be infused through the same.

4. Social Values:

Love, compassion, tolerance and justice which are the basic teachings of most of our religions need to be woven into environmental education. These are the values to be nurtured so that all forms of life and the biodiversity on this earth are protected.

5. Cultural and Religious Values:

These are the values mentioned in Vedas, like "you give me and I give you" (Yajurveda). It emphasizes that man should not exploit nature without nurturing her. Our cultural customs and rituals in many ways teach us to perform such functions as would protect and nurture nature and respect every aspect of nature, treating them as sacred, are it rivers, earth, mountains or forests.

6. Ethical Values:

Environmental education should encompass the ethical values of earth-centric rather than human-centric world-view. The educational system should promote the earth-citizenship thinking. Instead of considering human being as supreme we have to think of the welfare of the earth.

7. Global Values:

The human civilization is a part of the planet as a whole and similarly nature and various natural phenomena over the earth are interconnected and inter-linked with special bonds

of harmony. If we disturb this harmony anywhere, there will be an ecological imbalance leading to disastrous results.

8. Spiritual Values:

Principles of self-restraint, self-discipline, contentment, reduction of wants, freedom from greed and austerity are some of the finest elements intricately woven into the traditional and religious fabric of our country. All these values promote conservationism and transform our consumerist approach.

Objectives of Value Education:

Value education plays a significant role in the lives of human beings. It improves the integral growth of human beings. It attempts to create attitudes and improvement towards sustainable lifestyle. It continuously increases awareness about our national history, our cultural heritage, constitutional rights, national integration, community development and environment. It creates and develops our awareness about the values and their significance and role.

Importance of Values:

- Values help the individual to lead a successful life. It has been proved that wrong deeds result into the wrong results. So the person who is not at all aware of the values mentioned above will behave according to his/her own whims.
- Values teach us to control our emotions. The person who is not in control of his own mind may harm the other individual. On the contrary the person who has inculcated the values through education or training not only transform his/her own self but also others. Only learning values is not important but one shall practically implement those values in day to day life. The above mentioned values are important and no one can deny its existence.
- Values pay crucial role in every walk of life. They help the individual at every stage of life. Since childhood to death we encounter many situations and while performing as an individual, we need a specific vision to bring out positive outcome from these values.
- The person who is not in control of his own mind may harm the other individual. On the contrary the person who has inculcated the values through education or training not only transform his/her own self but also others. Only learning values is not important but one shall practically implement those values in day to day life. The above mentioned values are important and no one can deny its existence.

- The person who knows the values of love, happiness, honesty, humility, trust, freedom, courage definitely build up a vision for better life, for example, the great leader Mahatma Gandhi taught the lessons of truth and non violence. With the strong moral foundation of his ideology the Indians got freedom from the tyranny of British. So at last love wins and the hatred has to pay the high price.
- Sometimes it is observed that the people who follow the moral values are seen as sufferers and they are degraded by the people who don't follow the moral values . But with passage of time the people who don't follow the values are seen defeated and the ones who follow values have got victory.

As Jyoti Lindal rightly comments:“Values are those characteristics in human beings that provide them motivation and guidance throughout their lives. These values are not the property of any religion or any philosophy or any nation. These values are universal in nature and produce behavior which is beneficial both to the individual and to the society. These are the essence of healthy relationships and are essential for growth in any country. These values influence our thoughts and actions and motivate us to progress on a right path. These values contribute towards all round development of society and the country. The prosperity of any country depends on its men of enlightenment and character.”(24)

- The education of values which are the significant parts of one's personality should be taught in order to make the person aware about his/her own existence in this universe.
- Knowing values one can estimate himself/herself which helps in the self discovery. Each religion has stressed the idea of self discovery. One has to discover one's own value and later he /she can discover the other material gains.

Without the knowledge of self one cannot face the traumas and sufferings in life. This self –discovery is attainable only through learning as well as implementing values like love, trust, co-operation and courage. To discuss but a few the values like courage and trust are very important ingredients of one's self. The person who has developed trust upon himself can behave courageously. You must develop the habit of trust .This means that you have to trust upon yourself as well as others. Both trust and courage are complimentary to each other. They are the two sides of one coin. If you have courage you can have trust at any calamity. If you have trust upon your capabilities or the others' you automatically develop courage and can face any challenging situation in your life. Thus, the values like trust and courage at the same time the

others like love, honesty and happiness are worthwhile to mention here as per the value education is concerned.

Oxford Illustrated American Dictionary defines love: "the unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another." This is the only feeling of love that is very essential for the survival of not only the man but also for the mankind. Without this feeling the human life is absurd. A mother loves her child; a lover loves her beloved, a devotee loves his/her God. In each and every relationship if there is love the relationship lives longer. On the contrary if there is no love the relationship is spoiled. Therefore love becomes a priority for maintaining any relationship. Besides love honesty which is one of the values leads human's success.

Wikipedia Encyclopedia defines honesty as : " a facet of moral character and connotes positive and virtuous attributes such as integrity, truthfulness, and straightforwardness, including straightforwardness of conduct, along with the absence of lying, cheating, theft, etc. Furthermore, honesty means being trustworthy, loyal, fair, and sincere." With developing honest through value education one can strengthen his/her characters. Character building which is very necessary today in the competitive world is sustained through value education.

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